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The 16th Annual Great American Jazz Piano Competition Presented by WJCT

Jacksonville Jazz Festival

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The 16th Annual

Great American Jazz Piano Competition



**Thursday, November 12, 1998
The Florida Theatre**

Presented by **wjct** PUBLIC BROADCASTING

The Program

(subject to change)

Each pianist will play a 20-minute set. They will be accompanied by **Jay Leonhart** on acoustic bass and **Danny Gottlieb** on drums. Leonhart has been voted Most Valuable Bassist three times by the National Association of Recording Arts & Sciences. Gottlieb began with the Pat Metheny Group in the late '70s, and has become one of the most in-demand session drummers in jazz.

Introductions — Noel Freidline, host

The Competition

Arkady Figlin

I'm Getting Sentimental Over You (George Bassman)

I Remember You (Johnny Mercer and Victor Schertzinger)

Autumn Leaves (Johnny Mercer, Joseph Kosma and Jacques Prevee)

Joe Gilman

I Love Paris (Cole Porter)

Never Let Me Go (Livingston-Evans)

Con Alma (Dizzy Gillespie)

Tigran Martikyan

Nardis (Miles Davis)

My One And Only Love (Wood & Mellin)

Joy Spring (Clifford Brown)

Luis Perdomo

Dat Dere (Bobby Timmons)

Lush Life (Billy Strayhorn)

Un Poco Loco (Bud Powell)

Pamela York

Seascape (Kenny Barron)

Windows/Spain (Chick Corea)

The Song Is You (Jerome Kern)

Intermission

Guest Performance by Teri Thornton

Announcement of Winners



The Finalists



Arkady Figlin, 35, is equally accomplished as a classical pianist as he is a jazz composer, pianist and arranger. Born in Saratov, Russia, Figlin received his master's degree in music from the distinguished Gnessin Institute of Music in Moscow and is the first Russian jazz pianist to participate in major international competitions. He has won top honors for his performances in Russia, Belgium and Paris. Figlin released his *Jazz Christmas* CD in 1995 and has several recordings set for release in the near future.



Born in Sacramento, California, **Joe Gilman**, 35, is a proficient pianist, composer and educator. He has a master's degree in jazz and the contemporary media from the Eastman School of Music and a doctoral degree in education from the University of Sarasota. He currently serves as a professor of music theory and jazz studies at American River College in Sacramento. Gilman, a finalist at last year's competition, recently earned a Jazz Ambassadorship to West Africa through the Kennedy Center and an Emerging Artist fellowship from the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission.



Armenian-born **Tigran Martikyan** developed his love of jazz after attending a Dave Brubeck concert in Moscow. After he moved to the United States, he became intrigued with the improvisation and creativity of jazz music as demonstrated by the artistry of Bill Evans and Chic Corea. Martikyan received his bachelor's degree at the University of Southern California and is working on a master's from the Manhattan School of Music. He aspires to be a jazz great with his own group and recordings.



At age 27, **Luis Perdomo**, a native of Venezuela, is already an experienced jazz musician — performing professionally since the age of 12. Perdomo earned a scholarship to the Manhattan School of Music and graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1997. During his career, he has performed with Bobby Watson, John Stubblefield, Paquito D'Rivera and others. Perdomo is a candidate for a master's degree from Queens College in 1999.



Pamela York, 28, is a performer/composer and also teaches privately at Palomar College in San Diego. Born in Nanaimo, British Columbia, York began her formal training at age eight. She earned a bachelor's degree from Berklee College of Music in Boston in 1991 and completed a master's degree in jazz from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 1995. York has studied privately with jazz greats Ray Santisi, Jerry Coker, Donald Brown and Diana Krall. She has performed with the San Diego Symphony Pops, Monica Mancini, Michael Feinstein and many others.

Guest Performer



As the judges deliberate, the audience will be entertained by jazz vocalist **Teri Thornton**. This October, Thornton won the Thelonius Monk Vocal Competition only one week after recovering from a cancer-related illness.

Thornton has been dazzling audiences with her deep, rich sound since the 1960s. She departed the jazz scene for a time, but the desire to perform still burned in her heart. Thornton resumed her career in 1986 and her talent has taken her to England, Australia, and both coasts of the United States. She prefers to sing previously-recorded pieces giving them her own jazz-oriented interpretation. She is currently negotiating the release of a new CD.

Host

Noel Freidline is a local favorite on the jazz scene. His quartet is an acoustic-based jazz group with a repertoire of pop and non-traditional jazz tunes and jazz standards. He will also accompany Ms. Thornton tonight.

The Prizes

The first-place winner will earn a cash prize of \$3,500 and the opportunity to play at WJCT's Jacksonville Jazz Festival Metropolitan Park concert on Saturday, November 14 at 2:25 p.m. The second-place winner will receive \$1,500; third place earns \$750; and the two runners-up each win \$400.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Louise Freshman Brown for designing the cover art of this program. She has provided the cover art for the *Great American Jazz Piano Competition* for the last eight years. The WJCT Jacksonville Jazz Festival gratefully acknowledges the support of The Florida Theatre and Crawdaddy's Seafood & Steakhouse. Special thanks to Competition Chair Joyce Hellmann Bizot and to Florida Piano.



The Judges



Leslie Gourse is a chronicler of jazz, having penned numerous books and articles about the genre and its musicians. She also writes album-liner notes for record companies such as Columbia, Capitol, RCA Novus, Concord, Muse and several European labels. She has written and published biographies of many legendary jazz performers including Sarah Vaughan, Billie Holiday, Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonious Monk, Joe Williams, and most recently, Ella Fitzgerald.



Oliver Jones is called Canada's greatest gift to piano since Oscar Peterson, an impressive title to hold considering he entered the world of jazz in his late '40s. His career escalated rapidly with the award-winning recordings "Lights of Burgundy" and "Just Friends." Jones also has received the Oscar Peterson Award from the Festival International de Jazz de Montréal, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award for his contributions to the Black Community in Canada and a Félix for Best Jazz Album of the Year for the recording "Just 88."



Pianist/composer **Ron Mathews**, a jazz veteran for the past 40 years, has performed with jazz greats such as the Freddie Hubbard Quintet, Max Roach and T.S. Monk. He also was a member of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers and toured Australia with Dizzy Gillespie's United Nations Band. Mathews has recorded with Dexter Gordon, Woody Shaw, Louis Hayes and Roy Haynes just to name a few. He also has worked on the film soundtrack of Spike Lee's "Mo' Better Blues" and the Tony Award-winning show "Black & Blue."



At the age of 21, **Eric Reed** had held and resigned from one of the most enviable positions in jazz — keyboardist for trumpeter Wynton Marsalis' band. By the age of 24, he was touted by critics as one of the finest young musicians on the jazz scene. In 1993, Reed's debut album, "It's All Right to Swing," was named to both the *New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times*' Top Ten Jazz Albums lists. His 1995 recording, "The Swing and I," remains one of the most requested albums in jazz radio.



Pianist **Horace Silver** was discovered while working in a Hartford, Conn. nightclub by jazz saxophonist Stan Getz, whose band Silver toured with during the early 1950s. He went on to work with such jazz notables as Coleman Hawkins, Lester Young, Art Blakey and Miles Davis. In the late '50s, Silver formed his own jazz combo and was signed to a recording contract by Blue Note Records, a relationship that lasted 28 years. A prolific composer, arranger, lyricist, piano stylist and record producer — Silver has earned a reputation as one of the most innovative figures in the world of jazz music.

WJCT's JACKSONVILLE JAZZ FESTIVAL

Presented by



Fri., Nov. 13 — Metropolitan Park

7:00 p.m. Navy Band/Jacksonville Swing Band
7:50 p.m. The Dynamic Les DeMerle Band featuring Bonnie Eisele
9:10 p.m. The Manhattan Transfer

Sat., Nov. 14 — Jacksonville Landing

8:30 a.m. Principal Health Care Jazz on the Run

Sat., Nov. 14 — Metropolitan Park

9:30 a.m. Jazz Breakfast with the Navy T.G.I.F. Band
11:20 a.m. Citibank Jazz in the Schools All-Star Jazz Ensemble
11:50 a.m. Band of U.S. Air Force Reserve
12:45 p.m. Paul Taylor
1:50 p.m. Surge
2:25 p.m. Piano Competition Winner
3:05 p.m. T. S. Monk
4:25 p.m. Monty Alexander & Jamaicana
5:30 p.m. Swamp Dogs
6:05 p.m. DIANA KRALL TRIO featuring Russell Malone & Ben Wolfe
7:10 p.m. Champagne Brothers
7:45 p.m. New York Voices with the River City Band
8:50 p.m. Sha-Shaty
9:30 p.m. The Robert Cray Band

(Times and artists subject to change)

For more information, call WJCT's Jazz Hotline, (904) 358-6336 or visit our website:
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